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FRANK L. HOOBSMANAGER

FRIDAYAUGUST 16, 1907

Passing Of The Empress

The cable dispatches say that the Dowager Empress of China is to abdicate in favor of the Emperor when New Year comes again. She has had numerous strokes of paralysis, and apparently the wonderful old lady is at last nearing her end.

Does abdication mean placing the reformers, or modernizers, in full control? A few years ago, it will be remembered, the Emperor was won over by the reformers led by Kong Yu Wei, and his imperial majesty made a serious of edicts which were like Japan's start on the road to adopting occidental civilization. Suddenly the old Empress seized the reins of power, made the emperor practically a prisoner and started after the reformers with a vigor worthy of the best possible cause. Some were beheaded and one came to Honolulu and led the Bow Wong society in its efforts to contribute money, men and literature to the cause of reforming China. The results are still in evidence, in the struggling rebellion captained by Dr. Sun Yet Sen in Southern China. It was understood all along that the emperor was more or less in sympathy with reform movements and within three or four years past the empress has been changing to his view. The success of Japan in war with Russia impressed her with the fact that Japan had surely been wise in abandoning oriental exclusiveness and adopting western methods.

The story of the empress of China seems to show that China can beat us even in the romantic stories of the lowly risen to power and affluence. The Whittington-mayor-of-London story is one of our commonest style,—the country is full of rich men who began life as boot-blacks, newsboys, etc., and now love to pose in the front ranks of the "self-made men." But can we match the rise of this one of eighty-third-class wives of the son of heaven in China, from her lowly station to a throne which is probably the most powerful, as far as individual supremacy of its occupant is concerned, on earth? She is now seventy-four years of age. She saw all of Japan's recent sudden development and remained immovable in her refusal modern civilization. But after the Boxer rebellion drove her from her palace, and the allied forces of civilization dictated their terms in Peking, she began to change. A sensation was created some year a few years ago when she allowed herself to be seen by mere whites not of imperial rank. But the court has been opening up of late, and Her Majesty consented to sit for a painting by an American lady. She is beginning to get progressive in her old age. An imperial edict has just been enforced prohibiting use of opium in the empire. Now has come another one to abolish the cigarette throughout the empire,—in this the old lady is keeping step with some American states which this same year have passed laws to abolish the cigarette. Probably these are among her last acts, and she will pass into quiet dotage. But as long as she survives, the mysterious old lady in the sacred palace in Peking will remain one of the most wonderful and interesting characters in the world.

The Court And The Bar

There was deep sincerity in the complimentary expression of some of the leading local attorneys yesterday in the Supreme court on the occasion of the changes in justices. The older members of the bar here have much pride in the record of the isolated island community's judiciary. It is probably not too much to say that it can challenge comparison with any similarly located community, and will not suffer in comparison with the average State. Among those in the court yesterday were attorneys who have had relations with the Supreme court during two thirds of its history, and there was a feeling of sentimental pride in seeing the veteran A. S. Hartwell, so long a leader at the local bar and once before a justice of the court, take his place as head of the judiciary. There was a feeling too of confidence that the new bench will keep the record both of character and ability.

Hawaii's Supreme court, as one of the speakers pointed out, has had a unique experience in the variety of the forms of government under which it has had to supply the basic principles of the law. In this connection it is worth remembering that in one case since annexation the retiring chief justice was the author of an opinion, reversing a federal judge as well as local counts, which anticipated the Supreme Court of the United States in one of the most far-reaching and difficult decisions of recent times. There is intellectual courage in giving a ruling like that from a bench in far-off Hawaii. It was our court, and not Washington, which first ruled in the Mankichi case, which ranks with the famous diamond rings case in importance since the policy of expansion so severely taxed the laws and the constitution. It appears that the trouble is largely over now,—we no longer have the entire constitution dragged into court for vivisection, or declared already cut all to pieces, every time an offender meets his just deserts in jail. It has been found that the Organic act didn't prevent us from carrying out our own laws to punish crime. Still, the court will have hard nuts to crack, as all courts are supposed to have, and now that counsel and court have had their love feast, may they grapple again in the intellectual combat over niceties of law with all the old-time eagerness.

Who Caused The War Talk?

Who caused the war talk,—the American yellow journal or the Japanese yellow journal? It is interesting to read in Japanese papers that it was all the fault of the Americans, in view of the dispatches Tokio quoting leading statesmen, as making insinuations which almost amounted to threats. Says the Japan Times: "It is entirely a new thing for us to see a nation of 50 million people made an object of 'yellow journalistic' exploitation with absolute disregard of truth, just to 'make the paper sell,' and that nation to be ourselves. We have been 'written up' from all points of view and in all manner of attitudes, until American yellow newspapers have made of us the most warlike nation of the world, with the cold-bloodedness of the

NO SIMPLE LIFE IN THIS HOME

ROBERTS SAYS HIS BETTER HALF SHOWED HER LOVE BY USE OF FENCE PICKET.

In the libel for divorce which was filed in the Circuit Court yesterday by John E. Roberts, the well-known mixologist at the Young Hotel bar, against his wife, Maria Isabella Roberts, charges are made which would seem to indicate that the defendant is a woman of prowess with a record as well as a temper.

Roberts states that he was married in February, 1903, in Honolulu, and within a year there was stormy times in his household. At one time, while in a fit of jealous rage, his wife attacked him with a pair of scissors and inflicted a wound on which required the services of a surgeon and a number of catgut stitches to repair.

Again when he had made up his mind to live apart from such a storm center, and accompanied by a policeman for purpose of protection had gone to the house to remove his personal property, he was met at the gate by his loving spouse and caressed over the head with a fence picket. He was saved from serious injury only by the intervention of the policeman who forcibly restrained the angry woman until he had had time to make good his escape.

After living apart for a while a reconciliation was effected through the appeals of the repentant wife and the intercession of her mother, and under promise to control herself in the future they started life anew. But the peace was short lived.

In June, 1906, when the libellant had stopped at the home of a next door neighbor for a bite of lunch shortly after midnight when on his way from work, his wife had become terribly wrought up, and what she did to him on this occasion was a plenty. Besides biting him and kicking him, and hitting him with a high-heeled shoe, she otherwise injured him in a manner to cause him excruciating pain, and when he had called for help and a policeman living next door had responded, she responded, she repeated the operation in the officers' presence.

After another interval of comparative calm, the domestic peace was again broken on August 7th of the present year, when the libellee discovered that her husband had destroyed a number of kodak pictures of certain male members of the Elleford theatrical company, which he had found in a bureau drawer, and he was again assaulted and at the present time has not fully recovered from the effects of the encounter. Two days later when he again went after his clothes for the purpose of leaving her for a final time, she again resorted to violence in the presence of a hackman and others.

For these and other reasons, the libellant thinks he is entitled to a complete separation from the libellee and asks the court for the necessary relief.

STAR'S COMET SEEN FROM KAU

Purser Friel of the S. S. Mauna Loa, which arrived early this morning from Hawaii and Maui ports, reports that the great comet (the existence of which was first and exclusively reported in The Star) now drawing the admiration of thousands who take the trouble to rise in the darkness just before the dawn, has been visible with the most satisfactory plainness from Kau for three nights in succession hanging low in the heavens, its beautiful spreading tail toward the horizon.

THE POLO DINNER

The dinner that will be given for the Maui Polo Team tomorrow night at the Seaside Hotel will be a very elaborate affair. The committee on entertainment have asked Congressman Longworth, Governor Frear, Ex-governor Carter, Harold Rice manager of the Maui team, Umpire Charles Rice, and A. H. Rice, manager of the Kauai team to attend the dinner. In addition to the members of the Polo Club, a number of other people have been invited.

Boise defendants, the fiery fanaticism of negro-lynchers, the unscrupulousness of American souvenir hunters. Fortunately we have taken all good naturedly, or there would have been blood spilt. Be it remembered that it was long after American newspapers had become flooded with all sorts of calumny and misrepresentation about this country and attempts had begun to be made to give unfair and twisted interpretations to our intentions and motives in connection with San Francisco outrages, which themselves showed no signs of abatement, that some of our more excitable publicists were inveigled into talking provocation from the American side, and if these had been taken up seriously on our side,—if our newspapers had erred into showing a united front, as was the case just before the late war—nobody could tell what might have happened. We do not hesitate to say that serious mishaps have been avoided solely by our press as a whole exercising forbearance and calm judgment, and think this circumstance furnishes a valuable lesson on the danger of international yellow journalism."

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